Allotment of STD/ISD to Eligible Persons

7933. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4483 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd May, 1995 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that STD/ISD public telephone to the applicants with registration number SP-158 Main under Gurgaon Main Exchange in Haryana have not been allotted while applicants upto registration number SP-214 have since been cleared; and

(b) by when, the said applicants are likely to be allotted the STD/ISD public telephone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Forestation Targets under the National Forest Policy

7934 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Forest Policy of 1988 stipulated that one-third of the total geographical areas of the country should be under forest cover;

(b) so, the progress achieved so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some States have lagged behind in achieving the target; if so the names of the States and the reasons for non-fulfilment of the target; and

(d) the measures contemplated to expedite the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per the State of Forest Report, 1993 19.5 per cent of the geographical area of the country is under actual forest cover.

(c) The target mentioned in part '(a)' above is for the country as a whole. It is a fact that the actual area under forest and progress in afforestation varies from State to State for various reasons such as biographical conditions, availability of land etc. At present, the following States/Union Territories have forest cover over 33 per cent.

(i) Arunachal Pradesh.
(ii) Manipur.
(iii) Meghalaya.
(iv) Mizoram.
(v) Nagaland.
(vi) Sikkim.
(vii) Tripura.
(viii) Andaman & Nicobar.
(ix) Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

(d) To increase the forest cover, a massive programme of afforestation social and farm forestry under the 20-Point Programme is pursued vigorously with people's participation. During the Seventh Plan period, 8.9 million hectares were planted up against the target of 8.2 million hectares. The coverage of afforestation/tree plating activities is being increased during the Eighth Five-Year Plan.

Comparative Pollution Level in India

7935. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI AAS MOHAMMAD:
SHRI AJIT P. K JOGI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the level of pollution in India as compared to other countries: